



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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CONTACT: GEORGE HARDEEN
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
OFFICE – 928-871-7917
CELL – 928-309-8532
pressoffice@opvp.org

Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., welcomes Ariz. Gov. Jan Brewer to sign Diné College compact to provide \$17.5 million over 10 years

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., welcomed Arizona Governor Jan Brewer to the 63rd Navajo Nation Fair on Saturday to sign a compact to provide \$17.5 million to Diné College for another 10 years.

The compact continues the partnership between the State of Arizona and Navajo Nation that was originally signed in 1999 by Arizona Governor Jane Hull.

“Education is the means to getting back to standing on our own two feet, as individuals, as families, as communities and as a nation,” President Shirley said at the signing ceremony at the fairgrounds. “That’s why it needs to continue to be number one in our priorities. As a sovereign nation, we need to be independent again.”

Earlier this year, legislative leaders on the Joint Budget Legislative Committee recommended that the State renew the compact with Diné College. The current compact is due to expire next year, and so the legislature said needed to be renewed and evaluated.

Governor Brewer said she has fought for education since becoming governor in January.

“People often talk about the value of education, but too often they stop short of what is necessary to protect and advance it,” she said. “Diné College has done a

wonderful job of advancing education for communities that might not otherwise have access. Its success over the past 10 years should be commended, and I am excited to continue the partnership between the State and the Navajo Nation for the funding of Diné College.”



Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., and Arizona Governor Jan Brewer sign a compact to provide \$17.5 million to Diné College for another 10 years. The signing ceremony took place at the 63rd Navajo Nation Fair on Saturday. Assisting at left is the Governor’s policy advisor on tribal relations Katosha Nakai and, right, former Arizona State Sen. Jack Jackson, Sr.

Diné College President Ferlin Clark said that for years Arizona collected taxes but the Navajo Nation saw very little returned to its people. Through the compact, he said, that changed with the college being able to build its Tuba City satellite campus, improve its dorms at the Tsaile campus, and make plans to develop facilities at Dilkon.

President Clark said President Shirley campaigned to make education a top priority of the Navajo Nation. Among his accomplishments was the creation of the Navajo Nation Higher Education Grant Fund which will

provide Diné College with \$4.2 million for the next 17 years.



President Shirley and Arizona Governor Jan Brewer greet each other at the start of the Navajo Nation Fair Parade on Saturday. The President and the Governor watched the parade together before moving to the fairground for the compact signing.

"I really believe the only way to be is to complement each other, especially when it comes to our youth," President Shirley said. "Working together, we can't go wrong."

The Governor also thanked former state Senator Jack Jackson, Sr., for his years of service to the people of Arizona and generations of Navajo students and families.

"Continue to urge your elected leaders to follow the example of those like Senator Jackson," Governor Brewer said. "He knew how to put politics aside and work for the benefit of his constituents – all of you. This is how we can protect the seed corn of our future."

"I have fought, and I have fought hard, for education," she said. "I have twice vetoed bills that would have drastically cut education. Repeatedly I have said that I will stand firm and I will protect what I believe to be the seed corn of our future."

"The next time you pray, maybe offer some corn pollen for Arizona, too, because we're all bound up in this together," she said. "We're all connected. And we all dream the same dream for our children and our shared communities."

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